

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BRANCH (6WQ-A)
WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT
WEEK ENDING 10/3/08

ADMINISTRATOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING INDIRECT PROCUREMENT PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007: The Director of the Office of Small Business Programs announced on September 30, 2008, that the Region VI - Water Quality Protection Division, State Revolving Fund Team, is the recipient of the Administrator's Award for Outstanding Indirect Procurement Program Achievement for Fiscal Year 2007. The Team consists of: Javier Ballí, Margaret Osbourne, Miriam Fisher-Hadley, Dianne Sales, Tyrone Hoskins, Velma Smith, and Susanne Mann. The Team is recognized for the proactive efforts they have taken to improve MBE/WBE participation in EPA R6 State Agencies. In FY07, \$24 Million was awarded to MBE/WBE firms which represents 39 % of the SRF grant awards for FY07, exceeding the agency goal of 8%. The Administrator's 20th Annual Small Business Awards Ceremony will commence on Tuesday, October 21, 2008.
Maurice Rawls, 665-8049

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DIVISION CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319 TRIBAL NON-POINT SOURCE TRAINING: Assistance Programs Branch staff will attend and co-host a 3 day Non-point Source (NPS) workshop for Region 6 Tribes held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, hosted by the Pawnee Nation, October 6-8, 2008. The workshop will be attended by 18 Tribes from Oklahoma and New Mexico and will be conducted by Tetrattech, Inc. through a HQ contract. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss program eligibility requirements, program priorities, and the development of watershed assessment reports and watershed management plans. The Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, and Oklahoma Water Resource Board will partner with EPA Region 6 by making presentations on collaboration of their programs with the Tribal 319 program. Additionally, the Assistance Programs Branch staff will conduct site visits to the Seminole Nation, Kaw Nation, and Pawnee Nation. **George Craft, 665-6684;**
Melissa Galyon, 665-8423

CLEAN WATER ACT §319 GRANT AWARDS TO LOUISIANA AGENCIES: CWA §319 funds were awarded to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) in the amount of \$2,262,000. The funds awarded to LDEQ will support program management, a variety of projects in the Ouachita River Watershed and will help to address water quality problems in Louisiana. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry was awarded \$ 2,049,487 of incremental §319 funds. The funds will be used for administration of the State's nonpoint source program and for restoration projects in the Evangeline Parrish. The funds from both agencies will be used to provide the State of Louisiana assistance for the implementation of its Nonpoint Source Management Plan, which is designed to meet the goals of the Clean Water Act.
Sylvia Ritzky, 665-8189

**AWARD OF 319 NONPOINT POLLUTION SOURCE GRANT TO TEXAS
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD (TSSWCB):**

On September 25, 2008, TSSWCB was awarded a partial award of \$3,078,841 to implement and manage agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source programs for the State of Texas for FY2008. Incremental funding in the amount of \$1,499,859 will be awarded at a later date when TSSWCB revises the 2008 Pecos River Workplan and submits the Pecos River Watershed Protection Plan. **Ellen Caldwell, 665-7513**

**ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION BRANCH (6WQ-E)
WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT
WEEK ENDING 10/03/08**

COASTAL BEND BAYS & ESTUARIES PROGRAM (CBBEP): From September 22-23, 2008, Office of Water and Region 6 staff conducted a site visit in the Corpus Christi CBBEP office and in the field as part of a triennial program review. The CBBEP Executive Director had previously submitted written materials in accordance with new guidance from headquarters and participated in a telephone conference with the review team. Though the conclusory review letter from headquarters is still pending, it is clear that the program is considered an accomplished member of the National Estuary Program (NEP). The Barataria-Terrebonne NEP was similarly reviewed earlier in the summer and the Galveston Bay Program will undergo review next year. **Barbara Keeler, 665-6698**

2008 ARKANSAS NONPOINT SOURCE PROJECT REVIEW: The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) conducted its third annual review of projects in the 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Program. The three day event held at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Center in Little Rock, featured 32 new and on-going projects in various stages of implementation on topics featuring: environmental education, streambank restoration, cost-share, assessment (stream monitoring,) and demonstration (Low Impact Development, waste water treatment plant residuals), and others that have comprised the state's 319 program for the year. The meeting was attended by over 100 representatives from municipal, state, county and federal government, academia, nonprofit agencies, and consultants. Support staff from Ecosystems and Assistance Branches attended the event. **Bobby Hernandez, 665-7234**

ARKANSAS PLANNING ASSOCIATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DESIGN: The University of Arkansas Community Design Center is recipient of the 2008 "Achievement in Urban Development Award" by the Arkansas Planning Association for the Habitat for Humanity Low Impact Development project in Fayetteville. This prestigious award was for the 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention funded project titled *Porchscapes: An Affordable Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND)*. This is a 43-unit green neighborhood development sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission that features a number of green infrastructure attributes for surface runoff and water quality control. The University of Arkansas Women's Giving Circle is also a project sponsor. *Porchscapes* is currently in

the planning and engineering phase with construction slated for the end of 2008. The project master plan is featured in the summer 2008 "Landscape Architecture" magazine by the American Society of Landscape Architecture, and will also be featured at their annual convention in Philadelphia. The University has also received a number of other equally prestigious national and regional awards for this unique "one-of-a-kind" project in Region 6. **Bobby Hernandez, 665-7234**

BARATARIA-TERREBONNE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM: The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) held its Management Conference meeting at Nichols State University in Thibodaux, LA., on September 30, 2008. The BTNEP documentary, Harvest to Restore, regarding restoration utilizing pipeline sediment slurry, was shown. This piece was recently broadcast on Louisiana Public Television and plans are being made for viewing by state and federal legislators and other target audiences.

A report on recent public meetings regarding dredging Bayou LaFourche followed. Residents along the upper most reach of Bayou LaFourche met in small groups to review plans to widen and deepen 6.2 miles of channel under the Freshwater Districts existing permit. No homes will be required to move, although some small structures will be moved or demolished and banks will be graded to a slope of 2:1 or 3:1. Riprap and pilings will be used where needed. More project information can be found at: WWW.RestoreOurBayou.org.

A representative from NOAA reviewed Barrier Island and shoreline restoration projects in Barataria Parish and the impacts of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike on them. Numerous projects were conducted under CWPPRA and other authorities in which sand was placed, sand fences were installed, and vegetation was planted to close breaches and rebuild dunes. Knowing the northward progression of the shorelines was inevitable and that rollover and retreat would continue, the projects held up well in the face of multiple intense storms this summer. NOAA will continue to support these restoration projects. If the small breaches that occurred in the face of the storms don't close, then NOAA will look at future efforts to fill them.

Dr. Rex Caffey reported on the economic impacts to Louisiana's fisheries from the Hurricanes of 2008. He estimates that fisheries will lose over \$100 million and their supporting infrastructure lost \$152 million in value. This is far less than the storms of 2005, but the industry had not come close to recovering to the pre-Katrina/Rita levels of activity.

Also, parishes reported on the impacts of Gustav and Ike. Details on storm protection efforts, flooding, and clean up were provided. Due to higher water levels, high tide and widespread storm surges that occurred with Hurricane Ike, extensive flooding occurred. Throughout the lower parishes, extensive efforts were taken to reduce floodwaters, including running the pumps of the Canarvon project backwards to lower water levels in Plaquemines Parish. In Terrebonne Parish, Hesco baskets placed on top of levees helped to reduce flooding. Millions of cubic yards of woody debris are being removed, along with white goods and other household debris. Also, extensive debris and "bottom turnover" caused widespread fish kills. **Doug Jacobson, 665-6692**

PLANNING & ANALYSIS BRANCH (6WQ-N)

**WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT
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UPPER TRINITY WATERSHED PARTNERS PLANNING COMMITTEE

(UTWPPC): On October 1-2, 2008, management and staff from the Planning and Analysis Branch participated in a two-day social marketing charrette. The charrette is part of a region-wide social marketing campaign aimed at reducing herbicide, pesticide and fertilizer run-off into the Upper Trinity Watershed. The campaign seeks to reach out to representatives from the commercial lawn and garden industry to identify barriers and benefits to organic lawn and garden care practices. To introduce the principles of social marketing to environmental professionals working in the DFW metroplex, an executive breakfast featuring a social marketing presentation by Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr--a renowned environmental psychologist--and a one-day social marketing workshop was held on September 11, 2008. The social marketing campaign will be piloted in a small watershed in the DFW area this spring. **Jim Brown, 665-3175; Terry Branch 665-6667; Dave Reazin, 665-7501**

TREND STUDY OF STREAM FLOW FOR REGION 6: A member of the Water Information & Analysis Team initiated a project to determine precipitation trends across Region 6 for the last 100 years. The project entails acquiring National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Historical Climatology Network (HCN) precipitation monthly averages for up to the last 100 years and analyzing the data with regressions to determine the magnitude and direction with which precipitation is changing seasonally. The data will be used in conjunction with stream flow trends, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data on groundwater and surface water usage, GIS data on reservoir construction, and other data. Hopefully the product will be useful as a decision making tool for the Region. **Bob Kirkland, 665-6798**

**NPDES PERMITS AND TMDLs BRANCH (6WQ-P)
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LAST OF REGION 6 CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PERMITS ISSUED:

On September 29, 2008, Water Quality Protection Division issued Construction General Permits providing coverage for construction-related storm water discharges in Indian Country in New Mexico and Oklahoma and for federal jurisdiction dischargers in Oklahoma (primarily oil and gas and concentrated animal feeding operations) and Texas (primarily oil and gas). The Construction General Permit is now effective for all EPA-jurisdiction areas in Region 6. **Brent Larsen, 665-7523**

**FINAL AGENCY ACTION ON 30 TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs)
FOR DISSOLVED OXYGEN AND NUTRIENTS IN LOUISIANA:**

On September 30, 2008, 30 TMDLs for dissolved oxygen and nutrients prepared by EPA Region 6 for waters listed in Louisiana's Terrebonne River Basin, under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act were established. The notice announcing the final agency action will be published in the Federal Register. These final TMDLs are required to comply with the Louisiana consent decree agreement between EPA and the Plaintiffs.

The establishment of the 30 TMDLs has been approved by Water Division Director.
Curry Jones, 665-6793; Quang Nguyen, 665-7238; Linda Adams, 665-6546

LOUISIANA OFFSHORE TERMINAL AUTHORITY PERMIT REISSUANCE:

On September 16, 2008, The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) reissued the permit for the Louisiana Offshore Terminal Authority (LOTA) - Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP). The permit action is a joint re-issuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit for a facility that discharges to both State and Federal waters. The Permits Oversight Section previously coordinated this action with the Louisiana Office of Coastal Restoration and Management and with the National Marine Fisheries Service. **Paul Kaspar, 665-7459**

LOUISIANA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (LPDES)

PERMITTING ACTIVITIES: The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) recently submitted three preliminary draft LPDES permits for EPA review. One is a general permit authorizing discharges from automotive maintenance facilities; another is an individual permit renewal for an existing chlor-alkali manufacturing facility (for which LDEQ has requested an expedited review); and, the last is a steam-electric power plant permit resubmitted to address CWA 316(b) requirements for cooling water intake structures. **Paul Kaspar, 665-7459.**

**SOURCE WATER PROTECTION BRANCH (6WQ-S)
WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT
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OCC AND EPA UIC STAFF MEET TO DISCUSS EOY AND GROUND WATER

CENTER: Ground Water/UIC Section staff met on September 29th with Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) staff to discuss the Class 2 UIC program end-of-year review. A number of potentially contentious issues were on the agenda. EPA also took the opportunity to introduce the new Ground Water Center Coordinator, offer technical assistance, and to discuss a potential ground water summit meeting to be hosted by Region 6. **Phil Dellinger, 665-8324; Nancy Dorsey, 665-2294; Mike Overbay, 665-6482**

SANITARY SURVEY AT TRIBAL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS: On September 29-30, 2008, members of the Drinking Water Section conducted sanitary surveys at the Iowa Tribal Complex and the Pawnee Tribal Complex public water systems.

These site visits are an on-site review of the source, treatment, distribution system, management, and operation & maintenance of the water system. The on-site review is to evaluate the water system's structural integrity and capability to provide safe drinking water to the public. These reviews are conducted at a regular frequency under SDWA. **Kim Ngo-Kidd, 665-7158; Arnold Bierschenk, 665-7435; Andrea Abshire, 665-6706**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO REGION 5: During the week of September 29, Region 5 solicited the help of Region 6 UIC staff for insight into well interference testing

conducted by one of its Class I injection well operators. Region 6 staff used PanSystem well test software to simulate the anticipated pressure response between multiple wells and provided several comments on designing a successful interference test. Region 5 will use this information as the basis for working with the operator to determine if existing data can be analyzed or if an interference test will need to be designed and conducted to evaluate the reservoir properties at of the injection interval. Region 6 is routinely consulted by other Regions and States for technical analysis of deep injection well issues. **Susie McKenzie, 665-7198; Ken Johnson, 665-8473**

ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW OF THE NEW MEXICO DRINKING WATER PROGRAM: On September 23-24, 2008, members of the Source Water Protection Branch conducted the FY2008 annual program review of the Public Water Supply Supervision Program at the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau (DWB). NMED participants included staff and new managers from the DWB Central Office, the District Offices, and the Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB). The review covered the rules and requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act, including new rules implementation and primacy. Other discussion topics included the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Information System database, as well as on-going activities such as source water protection, sanitary surveys, and meeting targets. **Kim Ngo-Kidd, 665-7158**

NEW MEXICO UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL (UIC) END-OF-YEAR EVALUATIONS: On September 29-30, a member of the Ground Water/UIC Section traveled to Santa Fe, New Mexico to conduct the end-of-year (EOY) evaluations of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) UIC programs. The reviews are performed to assure that the UIC programs of New Mexico comply with appropriate primacy program and work plan requirements. **Lisa Pham, 665-8326**